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version which tempers ardor in imitation with the discretion which naturally marks a translator who believes clearness to be his first duty. Another example, this time of epigram, may be cited (1.1): "for it is the rare fortune of these days that a man may think what he likes and say what he thinks" (rara temporum felicitate ubi sentire quae velis et quae sentias dicere licet). Quill renders: "in these singularly happy days of freedom of thought and utterance". The contrast will at once suggest that Fyfe is far closer in general to the original, which is conspicuously true. But he does not aim to produce a literal translation. Other specimens of epigram are these: "To blame gods or men is his alone who fain would keep his life" (2.47 nam incusare deos vel homines eius est qui vivere velit); "but when one covets a throne there is no alternative between the zenith of success and headlong ruin" (2.74 imperium cupientibus nihil medium inter summa aut praecipitia). Short sentences are often employed to break up even the shorter periods, and this subdivision is cleverly managed, always with an eye to clearness (e.g. 1.16 fin.; 1.19 init.; 2.37). There is no anxious economy of words, the number in the Latin being sometimes doubled, e.g. 1.11 fin.: "the year which was to be their last, and almost the last for the commonwealth of Rome" (annum sibi ultimum, rei publicae prope supremum). And yet the general impression is not one of undue fulness. Freedom, a marked feature of many passages, is based upon the soundest and most exact interpretation of the text. One never feels that there was any vagueness in the mind of the translator as to what Tacitus means. He sufficiently proves that to him at least the historian is not obscure (Vol. 1, p. 11). Of course on many points opinions will differ, and here and there one observes some small slip, as in 1.125 (2.15), where Albenga is said to be in the interior of Liguria, which is hardly what Tacitus can have meant by *interioris Liguriae;* or in 1.44 (1.27), where the evil spirit of confusion has given us "thirty-three" for *tres et viginti.* One may doubt the wisdom of modernizing *isdem diebus* into "in the same week" (2.23), or *Sinuessanas aquas* into "Sinuessa Spa" (1.72). One may wonder why the date of the Agricola and the Germania is not given with more precision (p. 5), or conversely, how we know that the second Bedriacum was fought on October 27 (Vol. 2, p. 3). But the great merits of the translation as a whole deserve warm praise and congratulation. The teacher of Tacitus will gain not a few ideas of method in reading such a passage as this (3.72, on the burning of the Capitol): "Since the foundation of the city no such deplorable and horrible disaster had ever befallen the people of Rome. It was no case of foreign invasion. Had our own wickedness allowed, the country might have been enjoying the blessings of a benign Providence; and yet here was the seat of Jupiter Almighty—the temple solemnly founded by our ancestors as the pledge of their imperial greatness, on which not even Porsenna, when Rome surrendered, nor the Gauls, when they took it, had ever dared to lay rash hands—being brought utterly to ruin by the mad folly of two rival emperors!" Compare 3.68; 3.83; 4.53; 4.58, etc. The brief introduction is admirable, especially in its reply to Henderson and others, who berate the historian for sharing with his readers an aversion to strategy and military details in general. Elsewhere we read about "an epigram which he (i.e. Tacitus) would doubtless not have exchanged for the tedium of tactical truth" (Vol. 2, p. 139, *n.*). We earnestly hope that Mr. Fyfe will go on to the Annals of Tacitus, and thus in his own pointed words "continue in the failure to translate him" (Vol. 1, p. 12). Few failures are more discouraging to a possible competitor.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. F. G. MOORE.

In the Nation for March 13 there was an interesting editorial entitled On Classic Soil, part of which is here reproduced:

While the German War Office has been anxiously watching the progress of the Balkan allies as announcing the rise of a Slav Power in the Near East, inimical to German ambitions, many a German classicist, *ordinarius, extraordinarius,* or *privat dozent,* has probably been taking joy in the historic background against which the war has been fought. The cable dispatches bristle with names which carry the mind back 2,000 years and more to the times when Greeks and Romans and barbarians waged war in these places. And still further back the mind goes to the first traditions and mythologies whose homes were on the mountain and in the river valleys that are being daily spelled out—and sometimes erroneously—by the busy copy reader.

One need not even be a German professor to catch the thrill of that ancient world. It is sufficient to have made one's way through Professor Myers's Ancient History in preparation for the entrance examinations, to have struggled manfully through the thirty daily lines of the Iliad, to have memorized the dates of the Peloponnesian War, to have entered upon a mere bowing acquaintance with Alexander of Macedon, Caesar, and Brutus. A Turkish army is now encamped on the plains of ancient Troy, in anticipation of a landing by the Greek forces. Can one blame the professor of classic philology at the University of Weissnichtwo, if, forgetting for the moment that his interest as a German subject demands the defeat of the Greeks by the Turks, he catches himself longing for a repetition of the good fight in which King Priam's Asiatic troops went down before King Agamemnon's men? Another Greek army is now in possession of Salonica, almost in the shadow of Mt. Olympus, whose radiant deities probably hold no appeal to the Slavicized, Saracenized, Normanized, and Wallachinized soldiers of the Greek Crown Prince, but do cast their magic spell on the bald and bespectacled scholar at Weissnichtwo.

The Bulgarian cannon are at work on the banks of the Maritza, that River Hebrus whose shores echoed the magic notes of Orpheus's lyre, down whose waters floated the poet's dismembered body, a victim of the Thracian Maenads, frenzied practitioners of women's rites. The peninsula of Gallipoli is the Thracian Chersonesus. Not many miles from where Enver Bey's expeditionary force was routed and driven into the sea by the Bulgarians, Lysander and his Spartans rushed the Athenian fleet at Aegospotami, and the naval glory of the violet-crowned city was gone for ever.

Many of the old names have survived—Thrace, Macedonia, Rhodope, Bosphorus, Hellespont, and the entire galaxy of Aegean islands. Many of the names survive in mutilated form. Salonica is the Thessalonica of the Romans, with whose inhabitants Paul, the great letter-writer, was in active correspondence. The village of Filibijek is Philippi, another city whose interests Paul had close at heart, and not long before his time the trysting place designated by Caesar's vengeful ghost with Brutus. Scutari, where the Montenegrins are battling so desperately, is Scodra of the Illyrians, which succumbed to the Romans the same year that the Macedonian kingdom fell before them at Pydna. The river Struma is Strymon of the classic poets. Durazzo, which will be the principal port of the new Albania, is Dyrrhachium, and before that it was Epidamnus. Many great names have vanished altogether from the common eye, but the vision of the scholar at Weissnichtwo will have no difficulty in piercing beneath the Sea of Marmora to recall the Propontis, or in seeing beyond the Black Sea the Euxine on which Jason's ship fought its way to the Golden East. The Argo had neither twin-turbines nor Ritz-Carlton restaurants, but its name in men's hearts will probably outlive the Lusitania.

Our professor of classic philology at Weissnichtwo, being only human, is not inaccessible to certain twinges of self-interest. He had read that the Balkan War is to have an effect on Woman's fashions; the Parisian dressmakers have decreed the revival of the military style in walking gowns. Our professor finds himself wondering whether the Balkan War will not have its effect on college fashions, whether a revival of interest in that classic world which is so real to him is not among the possibilities of the time.

THE WASHINGTON CLASSICAL CLUB

The Washington Classical Club held its twenty-fourth meeting on Saturday, March 15, at Georgetown University. A paper on The Greek Lyric Poets was read by Mr. James F. Easby-Smith, a practising lawyer of Washington, author of The Department of Justice, its History and Functions, and also a lover of Greek poetry, and a sympathetic and skilful translator of Alcaeus and Sappho. Mr. Easby-Smith discussed briefly the chief lyric poets, and read English versions, for the most part his own, of representative poems.

MABEL HAWES,
Corresponding Secretary.

The National Geographic Magazine for January (pages 71-113) contains an interesting article by Mr. John D. Whiting, of the American Colony at Jerusalem, which describes a trip from Jerusalem to Aleppo. One part of it, richly illustrated with a dozen fine photographs, deals with the famous ruins at Baalbeck.

There is fortunately space to add here, to what is said on page 177 about the programme of the coming meeting of The Classical Association of the Atlantic States, that on Saturday afternoon, May 3, Rev. James A. Cahill, S. J., of Woodstock College, Woodstock, Md., will read a paper entitled Latin Composition in Jesuit High Schools, whose aim will be to point out the important position assigned to Latin Composition in the Ratio Studiorum, and to indicate the vital connection presumed by the framers of the Ratio to exist between written work of any kind and the daily prelection as well as the daily repetition, in a word, to show that composition work in Latin is simply a written expression of the various points insisted on in the prelection.

The Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Co., of Boston, have published an interesting little book, of 168 pages, entitled When I was a boy in Greece, by George Demetrios, a boy of seventeen, who came to America from Southern Macedonia about a year ago. The author is evidently a very intelligent youth, who knows the recent history of his country well, and is deeply interested also in ancient Greece. I have read the book with pleasure and profit. It costs sixty cents. C. K.

ARTICLES IN NON-CLASSICAL PERIODICALS[1]

American Political Science Review—Feb., Strachan-Davidson, Problems of the Roman Criminal Law (W. C. Morey).

The Athenaeum—Feb. 8, (Gilbert Murray, Four Stages of Greek Religion: J. Van Leeuwen, Ilias, cum Prolegomenis, Vol. I: V. Inama, Omero nell' Età Micenea: E. Thomas, Studien zur lateinischen und griechischen Sprachgeschichte: Lucian's Syrian Goddess, Translated by H. A. Strong); Feb. 15, (W. H. Goodyear, Greek Refinements).

Fortnightly Review—March, Enceladus (a poem), Alfred Noyes.

The Nation (New York)—Feb. 27, (A. Raeder, L'Arbitrage international chez les Hellènes. Translation into French by M. Synnestvedt); March 6, Ovid as a Source: (H. M. Chadwick, The Heroic Age): Excavations at Delos (page 243); March 13, On Classic Soil; March 27, (Jane Harrison, Themis: A Study of the Social Origins of Greek Religion).

Political Science Quarterly—March, J. G. Frazer, The Golden Bough (J. T. Shotwell): W. S. Davis, The Influence of Wealth in Imperial Rome (R. F. Scholz).

The School Review—March, The Eighteenth Michigan Classical Conference, F. W. Kelsey: Grammatical Concepts and their Names, A. D. Sheffield.

Sewanee Review—Jan., The Dramatic Element in the Iliad, David Martin Key.

The Spectator (London)—Feb. 15, (Sir C. P. Lucas, Greater Rome and Greater Britain).

The Times (London), Literary Supplement—Feb. 7, (English Literature and the Classics); Feb. 14, (H. Stuart Jones, A Companion to Roman History).

The Times (New York)—Feb. 16, A Newly Discovered Treasure of Antiquity (a photograph, said to be the first, of a statue of an Ephebus, found a few years ago at Sutri, near Rome, and now in the National Museum at Rome, on the site of the Baths of Diocletian: there is also a brief description).

[1] For the significance of the forms adopted in making the entries see THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY 6.39. Valuable assistance has been rendered by Professor H. H. Yeames, Mr. Irving Demarest, Mr. W. S. Messer, and Miss G. H. Goodale.